

AUGUST

FOURTH YEAR — N° 41

# International Review of the Red Cross



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1964

GENEVA  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
FOUNDED IN 1863

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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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## SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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### SPANISH

- L. Boissier : Centésimo aniversario del primer Convenio de Ginebra. —  
J. Pictet : El primer Convenio de Ginebra. — Un estatuto internacional especial para el personal de protección civil.

### GERMAN

- L. Boissier : Hundertster Jahrestag der Ersten Genfer Konvention. —  
J. Pictet : Die Erste Genfer Konvention. — Internationales Sonderstatut für das Zivilschutzpersonal.

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# CENTENARY OF THE FIRST GENEVA CONVENTION

*Sufficient emphasis can never be placed on the capital importance of the year 1864, which saw the origin of the first Geneva Convention.*

*That Convention marks the beginning of a decisive development in international law and, more generally, in relations between governments.*

*Henceforth, if States are still able to resort to war, in other words to violent acts, they are no longer free to do as they wish or treat their enemies as they incline.*

*Categorical rules oblige them to respect the wounded, the sick and the Medical Services of the armed forces in the field. One now sees the appearance on battle-fields of the red cross on a white ground, the inviolate emblem of law and humanity combined, to protect the enemy hitherto without protection.*

*The impetus had been given and, during the course of a hundred years, Governments were to sign the Geneva Conventions which are the foundations of humanitarian law, one of the finest achievements civilization has ever known.*

**LÉOPOLD BOISSIER**

President of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross

## IN 1864

The middle years of the XIXth Century were teeming with ideas and full of historical events of great significance. Science was beginning to take a predominant place in the world and there was an evergrowing belief in continued progress.

It was during this period of elation that there took place in Geneva from August 9 to 22, 1864, the Congress which drew up the "Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field"<sup>1</sup>. The signing of this important text of international law set the seal to a certain extent to the creation of the Red Cross and some even considered it to be one of the great achievements in history. Of the Convention, Gustave Moynier wrote : "Its existence fills a gap between past and future as regards the effectiveness of the law of nations for the attenuation of the calamities of war. It will henceforth only need a stroke of the pen to banish old practices which centuries were barely able to discard. Thus to the glory of having profoundly altered the philosophy of law by joining it with ethics, our period has added the achievement of having created genuine rules of war."

In many countries public opinion gave a favourable reception to the new humanitarian ideas. These ideas took form in the recommendations and resolutions adopted from October 26 to 29, 1863, at the international Conference convened in Geneva by the "International Relief Committee for the Wounded", which was later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The reception was generally excellent, societies were formed and on May 28, 1864, Gustave Moynier was able to write to Henry Dunant, who was in Paris preparing a favourable climate for the

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

projected congress: "I have received official notification of the constituting of committees from Vienna, Brussels and Copenhagen." It was not, however, only societies which were being created in accordance with Henry Dunant's wish expressed in his book "A Memory of Solferino". Private individuals were also fired with enthusiasm and wrote direct from different countries offering their services to the Geneva Committee. The latter, for example, received on July 4 the following letter written by an inhabitant of Liège and which gives a moving testimony of the immediate reaction on the part of the Belgian population to Dunant's remarks concerning the employment of voluntary nurses on the battlefield. It should be remembered that war had broken out five months previously between Prussia and Denmark.

A well-inspired Belgian newspaper recently published a small article on the subject of nursing volunteers who have formed international relief societies. If I thought it would please you to read the whole article I would transcribe it here, but I refrain from doing so, as I have reason to believe that you already have knowledge of it.

The purpose of this letter is to offer the society my humble services at the scene of the fighting to work as a nursing volunteer. I am French and went through the Italian campaign; you will therefore understand that whilst I desire to join the charitable and philanthropic institution of which you are the President, I have seen at close quarters what are so rightly called the horrors of war.

However, if a knowledge of German or Danish is necessary—although I do not think such is the case—I would ask you to disregard this letter, as I know neither of these languages. Otherwise, would you be so kind as to let me know to which Belgian town I should go, thence to be directed to the scene of hostilities.

The local press reflected this enthusiasm and gave its readers information on the congress which was about to take place. The *Journal de Genève* published on August 7 an article which, inspired no doubt by the members of the Committee of Five, gave a true picture of the general atmosphere and of the ends it was hoped would be attained.<sup>1</sup>

The Conference which was held in Geneva last October and whose object was to ameliorate the condition of the victims of war has not been a dead letter. It has borne fruit.

No power was given its members in any way to commit the various States which they had been charged with representing.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, May 1954.

The question was new at least for Europe. It had to be broached, its chief points discussed, the numerous difficulties examined. The desired result could not immediately be reached.

The assembly therefore dissolved, after four days' discussions, after having adopted *resolutions* which were in fact but *recommendations* engaging no one, but initiating the consideration of one of the deepest human problems which modern society has to face.

These recommendations were of two kinds. The one bearing on aid to be given to the wounded, whether on the battlefield or in ambulances or hospitals, by assisting, when this is necessary, official relief elements which, despite the solicitude and good will on the part of governments, are hardly ever sufficient to meet real needs. In this case individual initiative is all. The humanitarian activity of the whole population must do everything and should have no other contact with the government than to be approved.

Another recommendation of the Conference was of quite a different nature.

This was a question of obtaining the *neutralization* of the wounded and of all persons whose duty it is to care for them. One can understand that here all private action becomes invalid and that the adoption of this principle rests entirely in the hands of those making peace or war. It was this direction which the International Committee was to take, to which the Conference on its dissolution had entrusted its interests. It therefore addressed itself, either directly or indirectly to the European powers and had the good fortune to meet practically everywhere with a sympathetic reception.

From this general agreement to the convening of a new conference, there was but a step, and this has been taken. The Federal Council has invited various governments to send delegates to Geneva who will take up this special point of *neutralization*. Out of this new meeting, however, one could say, from this congress it is most likely, even probable, that there will emerge, under one form or another, an *international treaty* engaging the contracting powers to declare neutral, that is to say not to make prisoners of war, either seriously wounded military or medical personnel caring for them. We therefore have reason to say that the work of the October conference has not been in vain.

An account of all that has been done on this important and most interesting subject has just been published under the title *Communications of the International Committee*. Those who are attracted by such questions will be able to find there all the successive phases through which this question has passed since the publication of Mr. Henry Dunant's book, *A Memory of Solferino*, which can be regarded as being the initial spark, until the convening of the Congress which will be assembling tomorrow, August 8 in Geneva.

The International Committee considered it its duty to send two delegates to Denmark and to the German side, both to demonstrate its sympathy as well as to discover how aid was actually being given

to the wounded. Dr. Appia and Captain Van de Velde each submitted most interesting reports to it on the result of their mission. These two reports are included in the International Committee's publication. It also contains a summary of the work of the *medical commission* in the United States, this admirable institution which progresses with great strides, whilst we are still discussing whether the movement is even possible.

The pamphlet ends with a list of members of the relief committees in various European countries and with a reproduction of their statutes.

Whatever may be the results of this great humanitarian movement, we believe that its object has deeply penetrated the public conscience and we hope that it will remain there and fully ripen.

\* \* \*

Henry Dunant and his colleagues actively intervened from November 1863 onwards to make the recommendations and resolutions of the International Conference widely known and to obtain official support. Their efforts were crowned with success, since on June 6, 1864, the Swiss Confederation sent out invitations to all European governments as well as to the United States of America, Brazil and Mexico :

*In October 1863, an International Conference, meeting in Geneva with a view to obtaining more adequate aid to the wounded on the battlefield, adopted resolutions for the formation in all States of Committees for the encouragement and realization of these humanitarian efforts, by preparing them in time of peace and by putting them into effect in time of war.*

*But in addition to these resolutions that Conference also made the following recommendations :*

*A.—That Governments should extend their patronage to Relief Committees which may be formed, and facilitate as far as possible the accomplishment of their task ;*

*B.—That in time of war the belligerent nations should proclaim the neutrality of ambulances and military hospitals, and that neutrality should likewise be recognized, fully and absolutely, in respect of official medical personnel, voluntary medical personnel, inhabitants of the country who go to the relief of the wounded, and the wounded themselves.*

C.—That a uniform distinctive sign be recognized for the Medical Corps of all armies, or at least for all persons of the same army belonging to this Service ; and that a uniform flag also be adopted in all countries for ambulances and hospitals.

*The provisional International Committee of Geneva is of the opinion that these recommendations should be formulated in such a manner as to be obligatory and for them to be accepted by all States. Encouraged, therefore, by the keen interest shown by governments and the people, it requested the Swiss Federal Council to convene a General Congress in order to have these principles confirmed in accordance with the law of nations.*

*The Swiss Federal Council considers it to be its duty to comply with this request. Existing treaties assign a neutral rôle to Switzerland in time of war. It is, however, precisely this position which justifies the interest it takes in the wounded and the measures it proposes to other States for their care.*

*The Federal Council therefore invites the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in a general Congress to deal with this special question and proposes the city of Geneva as the place of meeting and Monday, August 8 next for the date on which the Congress opens.*

*Trusting that the Government of \_\_\_\_\_, appreciating that these efforts will be both useful and advantageous for all the States to conclude such an agreement, will see its way to accept this invitation. The Federal Council assures Delegates of a cordial welcome and expresses the assurance of its high consideration.*

The principal aim of the Congress, which was to meet a little over two months later, was to declare the neutralization, in time of war, of ambulances, hospitals, official medical personnel and voluntary aids.

The adoption of a common attitude can already be seen from the very first session as testified by the official minutes of August 9, 1864, written up by Dr. H. Brière, Secretary of Conference. These were as follows : <sup>1</sup>

« Delegates met at the Hôtel-de-Ville of Geneva on Monday, August 8, 1864, at 1.30 p.m. The following were present :

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<sup>1</sup> ICRC Archives. The official texts were in French and we now give their English translation.

For Baden :

Dr. *Steiner*, Major, Army Medical Service

Dr. *Volz*, Medical adviser, Member of the Medical Directorate

For Belgium :

Mr. Aug. *Visschers*, Adviser to the Mining Council

For Spain :

H. E. J. *Heriberto Garcia de Quevedo*, Chamberlain and Chargé d'Affaires of His Catholic Majesty to the Swiss Confederation

For France :

Mr. *Jagerschmidt*, Assistant Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. *de Prével*, Assistant Military Administrator, Class I

Dr. *Boudier*, Chief Medical Officer

For Great Britain :

Dr. *Longmore*, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Professor of Military Surgery

Dr. *Rutherford*, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals

For the Grand-Duchy of Hesse :

Major *Brodrück*, General Staff Officer

For Italy :

Cavaliere Felix *Baroffio*, Divisional Medical Officer

For the Netherlands :

Mr. *Westenberg*, Secretary of Legation of H.M. The King of the Netherlands at Frankfort

For Portugal :

Dr. José Antonio *Marques*, Assistant Head of the Military Health Department

For Prussia :

Privy Counsellor of Legation *de Kamptz*, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Confederation

Dr. *Loeffler*, General Medical Officer of the 4th Army Corps

Mr. *Ritter*, Privy Counsellor at the Ministry of War

For the Kingdom of Saxony :

Dr. *Günther*, Chief Army Medical Officer

For Sweden :

Major *Staaff*, General Staff Officer, Military Attaché at the Legation of H.M. the King of Sweden and Norway in Paris

For Switzerland :

General *Dufour*, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Army  
Mr. Gustave *Moynier*, President of the International Committee  
Dr. *Lehmann*, Chief Army Medical Officer

For Württemberg :

Dr. *Hahn*

At the opening sitting Mr. *de Kamptz* proposes General Dufour as President of the Assembly. This proposal is adopted unanimously.

General *Dufour*, having taken the chair, asks the Conference to agree to Dr. *Brière*, Divisional Medical Officer of the Federal Army, to act as Secretary. This proposal having been accepted, Mr. Secretary is duly introduced.

General *Dufour*, on behalf of the Federal Council, welcomes the representatives of foreign governments and thanks them for having responded to the Confederation's appeal for the purpose of concluding a Treaty for the neutralization of the medical military service and of the wounded, a treaty which has been called for in no uncertain terms by mankind. He regrets that there are still some vacant seats amongst the deputations.

The question of credentials is then discussed.

The representatives of France and Switzerland are alone recognized as having full powers in due and proper form. Those of Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal and Württemberg, present powers by which they have authority to negotiate and sign the projected convention. The delegate of Spain, however, declares that he will forthwith telegraph his government to discover whether it considers it necessary to send him special full powers for the act of signing. The delegates of Baden, Belgium, Great Britain, Hesse, Italy, Prussia, Saxony and Sweden have participation in the debates of the Conference as their sole mission, but have not been authorized to sign diplomatic acts. Nevertheless, they promptly declared that

they would immediately request their governments to send them the requisite powers. The delegate of Sweden will request these by post, but he does not expect, in view of the distance involved, to receive the requested authorization before the end of the session. He does not consider it possible to make use of telegraphic channels, since these would not enable him to give sufficient explanation of the reasons for his requests.

Mr. *Jagerschmidt* states that, under these circumstances, there are, according to him, only two ways to be pursued as regards the various points to be dealt with by the Congress : either the delegates with full powers will meet alone to negotiate, or else, and this alternative seems to him to be preferable, the debate should be opened immediately, in which all will take part. At its close, those delegates with full powers at that time will then sign, the protocol being left open for subsequent accessions by States whose delegates have not been assigned full powers.

Major *Stauff* is of the opinion that the object of the Congress, that of dealing with a draft Convention, is sufficiently clear and definite, and that all the Deputations should be able to take part in the discussions.

Messrs. *de Kamptz* and *de Quevedo* share the view expressed by Mr. *Jagerschmidt* and propose that delegates at present having powers sign together with those who will be receiving them subsequently and before the moment of signing.

*The President* considers that the substance of the negotiations should first be dealt with before discussing their form which will be remitted to a diplomatic Commission. This Commission, whose appointment is in the hands of the President, will consist of five members : Messrs. *de Kamptz*, *de Quevedo*, *Jagerschmidt*, *Longmore* and *Moynier* (the latter on Dr. *Lehmann's* refusal of nomination). This Commission will deal in particular with the form to be given to the treaty once it has been approved.

General *Dufour* then defines and explains the purpose of the meeting to the Assembly as follows :

“ Gentlemen, the object of our present meeting is so simple that I have in fact but few words to address to you. It has been

specially and thoroughly indicated in the letters of invitation which have been sent out by the Federal Council to your respective governments, under date of the 6th of June of this year. It is merely a question of *neutralization* of ambulances and medical personnel of armed forces in the field, as well as of the wounded. This then is the *sole* object of convening this assembly. It appears, however, according to the gist of several letters and facts which have been brought to our knowledge, that this has not been generally understood and one has seen it to be more complicated and full of difficulties than is really the case.

I will therefore briefly remind you, although this is no doubt already known to you, that the International Conference which was held in this city in 1863, after having adopted certain resolutions relative to the organization and the action of Relief Committees in various countries, to come to the aid of the official personnel of the armies in the field, nearly always inadequate after large-scale battles ; that this Conference, I say, accompanied its resolutions with three articles which are the expression of its recommendations in order to arrive at a state of affairs urgently demanded by the present circumstances of civilization and real Christian charity.

These are the texts of the recommendations :

A.—That Governments should extend their patronage to Relief Committees which may be formed, and facilitate as far as possible the accomplishment of their task ;

B.—That in time of war the belligerent nations should proclaim the neutrality of ambulances and military hospitals, and that neutrality should likewise be recognized, fully and absolutely, in respect of official medical personnel, voluntary medical personnel, inhabitants of the country who go to the relief of the wounded, and the wounded themselves.

C.—That a uniform distinctive sign be recognized for the Medical Corps of all armies, or at least for all persons of the same army belonging to this Service ; and that a uniform flag also be adopted in all countries for ambulances and hospitals.

You will realise, according to this, that if, in the optional forming of Relief Committees, the Conference was able to adopt several resolutions included in the reports of its meetings it could,

as it in fact did, only make recommendations for the realization of the aims mentioned in the above-quoted articles, since here the intervention of governments became necessary. Its competence did not extend as far as that.

These recommendations were favourably received by several governments who went so far as to express their sympathy to the International Committee of Geneva with the work of the October Conference, and their desire to see accomplished that which it had voiced merely under the form of recommendations. One great Power, in particular, to whom I feel I should now address my own sincere thanks and those of the entire Committee, has showed itself prepared to take the initiative of convening a Congress to realize a project in which so many people are interested. At the same time, however, it had the sensitivity to leave this honour to a small country in which the question had originally been raised and which because of its size and state of neutrality was perhaps the best qualified to bring about such a meeting. It is by virtue of this that the Federal Council, that is to say the Swiss Government, found itself in the position of sending out invitations to all States with which it maintains established relations.

Let us go back to the three articles of the Conference. Of the first, A, there is nothing to say or to propose. It does not supply matter for a Convention, each government being able to do everything, within the limits of its own territory and its attributions, it considers suitable for facilitating the creation and the work of relief committees which may be formed in its own States, or it may merely tolerate them. It is obvious in this respect that it must have complete liberty of action. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that can be ordained for it and it has to take no engagement whatsoever which might alter or in any way impede its medical services of the armed forces in the field.

The other two articles, B and C, relating to neutralization are, properly speaking, the only ones with which we have to deal. They in fact constitute the sole object of our work and all our efforts. Let us not lose them from sight so as to avoid sterile digressions. Gentlemen, you are called upon to examine these articles thoroughly in all their facets and to produce from them the text of a *Convention* in the requisite form for a diplomatic instrument, to act as law amongst nations, or to regulate their relations with each other.

I therefore repeat this, and I do so by design. This is not a matter either of making new proposals for forming and extending Relief Committees, or of alterations in the rules which have been adopted and consolidated by experience, nor of modifications which might arouse justifiable suspicion. Those who may have thought to the contrary have given themselves a false idea of the purpose for which we are meeting. And if this is the reason which has prevented some States from sending representatives to our Congress, I can only express my great regret. They have in fact entirely misunderstood our intentions. They will appreciate them more, I hope, when they learn of them through reading the act which will come out of our deliberations. It will therefore be a good thing to give them the opportunity of acceding to them later on by leaving, as one says, the protocol open.

We, Gentlemen, have no thought of anything bordering either closely or remotely on the innovation or the proposals mentioned above. We will even make a point of avoiding anything which resembles this. We only want one thing: *the Neutralization of ambulances and medical personnel between belligerents*. That is all. We do not want anything more. However, this matter which is apparently quite simple, presents several difficulties of a practical nature one should not attempt to hide, but which you will no doubt be able to overcome. At all events, the question can have the widest repercussions by the way it is decided, since it is capable of introducing a new law of nations between countries at war by bringing a deep and most advantageous modification to that which has existed so far.

Whilst armed conflicts will unfortunately always exist in a world of opposing interests in which human passions are aroused, there must at least be enlightened men in all countries to attempt to alleviate their deplorable effects by making philanthropic ideas prevail, as far as possible, on behalf of the victims of these heart-breaking discussions. One great step forward has already been taken in this direction. The wounded are no longer abandoned on the field of battle, nor are they any more maltreated, whatever the existing animosity between the opposing parties. The conqueror collects and cares for them as he does in the case of his own people. They do not lack aid either from official doctors or from those who take as their example the devotion of one woman whose name will everywhere be blessed and will for long be venerated. But this is by

no means enough. Let us now take one step more by obtaining the benefits of Neutrality for the wounded, as far as possible, so that, after having extended a helping hand to them in misfortune, after having bandaged their wounds and relieved their suffering, there may no longer be interference in their freedom. Attempts have already been made on several occasions to have the principle of neutrality admitted for ambulance personnel and for the wounded themselves. Many Commanders of opposing sides have signed cartels and special conventions to that effect, although without lasting results. The time, however, was not then yet ripe to demand such concessions from old customs. Let us try to reach such a result more completely and in a more certain manner, upheld as we are by the good wishes and favourable dispositions of the governments themselves. Man's spirit is now prepared for this and circumstances are all most favourable to us.

That is the reason for this Congress, that is its task than which one could imagine none nobler or finer.

May we achieve success. Let us not separate without the conviction that we have done something for suffering humanity.

I declare the Congress of Geneva open."

The text of the draft treaty is then read out, as well as an account of preceding ones concerning the neutralization of the medical service, which are both distributed to the members present.

A discussion ensues in order to decide how voting is to take place, whether this should be by each State represented or by heads.

Mr. *Jagerschmidt* remarks that votes cannot be cast on the articles of the Convention, since the majority can never bind the minority, however weak it may be.

The protocol will only contain the proposals made with the necessary explanations for them to be understood.

After discussion, the meetings are arranged for one o'clock in the afternoon.

The meeting is adjourned.»

\* \* \*

There were a series of receptions during the whole period of the Congress, and the seventh and last session took place on August 22. Dr. Brière was able to write : <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> We would point out that, when speaking of the "President", the Secretary to the Conference was referring to General Dufour.

The *Plenipotentiaries*, after checking the Treaty, duly affix their signatures.

The *President* thanks the members of the Assembly for the good will and courtesy they brought to the discussions and expresses his satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Conference's work.

He concludes by wishing the representatives of the various States a safe return home.

Mr. Fenger expresses his thanks, on behalf of the Assembly, to the President for the distinguished and impartial manner in which he directed the work. " I also wish to thank you ", he says, " for the important part you played in the deliberations which so greatly enlightened them. I would also thank you for having been so good as to lend your illustrious name to this Conference which will have done good and useful work, but which certainly would not have accomplished its mission so well if it had not had the good fortune of having you as member and President ".

The following is the text of the Convention which was signed by the plenipotentiaries of the Grand-Duke of Baden, the King of the Belgians, the King of Denmark, the King of Spain, the Emperor of the French, the Grand-Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, the King of Italy, the King of the Netherlands, the King of Portugal and the Algarves, the King of Prussia, the Swiss Confederation, the King of Württemberg. The protocol naturally remained open for further signatures by all the other States.

GENEVA CONVENTION OF AUGUST 22, 1864, FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF THE WOUNDED IN ARMIES IN THE FIELD

ARTICLE 1.—*Ambulances and military hospitals shall be recognized as neutral and, as such, protected and respected by the belligerents as long as they accommodate wounded and sick.*

*Neutrality shall end if the said ambulances or hospitals should be held by a military force.*

ARTICLE 2.—*Hospital and ambulance personnel, including the quarter-master's staff, the medical, administrative and transport services, and the chaplains, shall have the benefit of the same neutrality when on duty, and while there remain any wounded to be brought in or assisted.*



*(Photo-Boissonnas, Geneva)*

*General G.-H. Dufour (1787-1875)*



*Gustave Moynier (1826-1910)*

ARTICLE 3.—*The persons designated in the preceding Article may, even after enemy occupation, continue to discharge their functions in the hospital or ambulance with which they serve, or may withdraw to rejoin the units to which they belong.*

*When in these circumstances they cease from their functions, such persons shall be delivered to the enemy outposts by the occupying forces.*

ARTICLE 4.—*The material of military hospitals being subject to the laws of war, the persons attached to such hospitals may take with them, on withdrawing, only the articles which are their own personal property.*

*Ambulances, on the contrary, under similar circumstances, shall retain their equipment.*

ARTICLE 5.—*Inhabitants of the country who bring help to the wounded shall be respected and shall remain free. Generals of the belligerent Powers shall make it their duty to notify the inhabitants of the appeal made to their humanity, and of the neutrality which humane conduct will confer.*

*The presence of any wounded combatant receiving shelter and care in a house shall ensure its protection. An inhabitant who has given shelter to the wounded shall be exempted from billeting and from a portion of such war contributions as may be levied.*

ARTICLE 6.—*Wounded or sick combatants, to whatever nation they may belong, shall be collected and cared for.*

*Commanders-in-Chief may hand over immediately to the enemy outposts enemy combatants wounded during an engagement, when circumstances allow and subject to the agreement of both parties.*

*Those who, after their recovery, are recognized as being unfit for further service, shall be repatriated.*

*The others may likewise be sent back, on condition that they shall not again, for the duration of hostilities, take up arms.*

*Evacuation parties, and the personnel conducting them, shall be considered as being absolutely neutral.*

ARTICLE 7.—*A distinctive and uniform flag shall be adopted for hospitals, ambulances and evacuation parties. It should in all circumstances be accompanied by the national flag.*

*An armband may also be worn by personnel enjoying neutrality but its issue shall be left to the military authorities.*

*Both flag and armband shall bear a red cross on a white ground.*

ARTICLE 8.—*The implementing of the present Convention shall be arranged by the Commanders-in-Chief of the belligerent armies following the instructions of their respective Governments and in accordance with the general principles set forth in this convention.*

ARTICLE 9.—*The High Contracting Parties have agreed to communicate the present Convention with an invitation to accede thereto to Governments unable to appoint Plenipotentiaries to the International Conference at Geneva. The Protocol has accordingly been left open.*

ARTICLE 10.—*The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at Berne, within the next four months, or sooner if possible.*

*In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the Convention and thereto affixed their seals.*

*Done at Geneva, this twenty-second day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.*

The great task which the Committee of Five had assigned itself was thus crowned with success and one can but admire this text whose moral and juridical significance was of such a high level and whose form was as precise as it was clear. Moynier, however, had written to Dunant on June 1, 1864 when the latter announced his intention of leaving the International Relief Committee for the wounded: "Once the Treaty has in fact been signed for neutralization and Committees have everywhere been formed, which will not be long delayed, there will not remain much to do and we will at least have the satisfaction of having all together brought our, or rather your enterprise to a successful outcome."

If the first object was attained, this was not the case for the second. Committees did not everywhere exist and from Geneva the formation of relief societies had to be urged forward, their numbers were still indeed limited to a mere nine. It was for that reason that an International Conference of Relief Societies met

on August 10 and 11, 1864 during the period of the Geneva Congress. The International Committee had convened it with its circular of July 12, 1864, the first it was to send to the Central Committees :

The International Committee takes the liberty of drawing your attention to the usefulness there would be for delegates of various relief committees already formed being present in Geneva, at a time when a Diplomatic Conference will be meeting there to ratify the recommendations of the Conference held in October 1863.

Although the plenipotentiaries are alone empowered to take part in the Congress meetings, opportunities would certainly not be lacking to the representatives of the Committees to discuss with them the work of aid to the wounded and, in our opinion, the exchange of ideas which would ensue from such talks could be extremely profitable.

That is why, Gentlemen, we now express the pleasure it would give us, if some members of your Committee could do us the honour of visiting us during the session of the Congress which will open on August 8 next.

We would be pleased to be able to make their personal acquaintance and thus establish yet one more link between our Committees, already united by one common aim.

At a time when we are celebrating the centenary of the Geneva Convention, we should remember not only the International Conference which gave it birth, but also that in which the Relief Societies, which were later to become the National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies, met for the first time. Comparing their efforts they were no doubt the better aware, on that occasion, as was the International Committee itself, of the strength of the common ideal which united them and of the future which was promised to them.

## Four anniversaries

We have just been reading how important was the “International Conference for the neutralization of military medical services in the field”. We thought our readers would be interested in seeing, by reference in particular to the *Bulletin international des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge* and the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*<sup>1</sup>, opinion on the “Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field”, twenty-five, fifty and seventy-five years after its signature.

### Twenty-five years after the signature of the First Geneva Convention

In 1889, Gustave Moynier submitted to his colleagues on the International Committee of the Red Cross a paper on the accessions to the Convention<sup>2</sup>. In this he pointed out that one of the Committee's important tasks had up to that time been to make known this Convention and to induce a larger number of States to sign it. Indeed, in 1869 the Berlin Conference had invited the ICRC “to take the most active steps to obtain successively the accession to the Geneva Convention of all the Powers which had not yet signed it”. But, Moynier said: “We did not wait for the Berlin Conference recommendation to get to work. We began propagating the treaty as soon as it was signed and if, already by April 1869, the Convention of August 22, 1864, bears as many as 22 signatures, I claim that the International Committee contributed greatly to this result. At that time almost all Europe was subject to this

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<sup>1</sup> The *Bulletin* was issued as early as 1869 and was replaced by the *Revue* in 1919. The original version of quotations translated here are French.

<sup>2</sup> See *Bulletin international*, April 1889.

new law ; the purpose of the decision taken must therefore have been especially to launch the International Committee on a new track. As the protocols show, it was a matter of inducing the civilized States of America, Asia and Africa to follow the example of the governments of Europe.

Today this goal has to a great extent been achieved. In Europe there is not one single power opposed to our principles, and accessions to the Convention have come from Asia, Africa and America. In the course of the last twenty years, the number of signatories has risen from twenty-two to thirty-six. Not all this success is the fruits of our efforts alone, but in the second period, as in the first, we have worked without respite along the lines indicated by the Berlin Conference and we have more than one achievement to our credit. I would add that we do not consider our task finished. Indeed, we are at present carrying on negotiations in various quarters and have high hopes. Nevertheless, our zeal is not blind. We make it our duty not to acquire accessions designed merely to please or for show and we do not approach nations which we consider are insufficiently advanced to enable them to share our aspirations or to fulfil the undertakings we invite States to assume."

After explaining, with actual examples, that there is a variety of ways of acceding to the Geneva Conventions, Moynier listed the reasons put forward by some of the governments as having motivated their decision :

" Naturally, all were induced to associate with previous signatories of the Convention because they shared the thinking and sentiments of the authors of the Convention and four of them categorically stated as much. The first of these was impelled by " the desire to contribute to the achievement of the charitable purpose of the Convention " (Mecklemburg). The second desired " to manifest sympathy for the humanitarian principles of which the Convention is the worthy and living manifestation " (Montenegro), the next two, Saxony and Greece, " applauded its philanthropic aim " and Greece added that as a consequence " it did not hesitate to join, being convinced that unanimous agreement on this subject could not fail to be a powerful contribution to the alleviation of the ills and suffering widely engendered by war ".

In an idea of another order, the Pope was concerned to underline one of the effects of the Convention which moved him particularly, since it directly affected his Apostolic Church. "His Holiness" stated the Roman press, "was prompted specially by the desire that assistance from religious orders be brought to the wounded in a more ready and regular manner".

Amongst the more recent adherents, there are three (Bulgaria, Luxemburg and the Congo), who agreed to motivate their declaration in identical terms as being a step forward to the creation of Red Cross Societies in their respective States. They do not state this very clearly, it must be agreed. But it is evidently in this way that the phrase used by these governments, "the desire to join the ranks of the International Red Cross Society", must be interpreted. This wording is inaccurate, seeing that on the one hand no "international Society" exists, but only National Societies of the Red Cross and, on the other hand, one can hardly imagine a government "joining the ranks of a private Society, especially when the objective of that Society is to remedy the inefficiency or negligence of a branch of public administration".

Certainly, the development of the work of the Red Cross favourably influenced the extension of the Geneva Convention to include many States. It is for this reason that in 1889 in Tokyo the President of the Japanese Red Cross in a speech which he delivered in the presence of the Empress on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Red Cross, was able to say :

When the Conference convened in Geneva by the Public Welfare Society to examine ways and means of improving the condition of wounded soldiers, resolved to found relief societies and to advise governments to recognize the neutrality of ambulances and medical personnel, no one flattered themselves that they could achieve such magnificent results within 25 years.

But the Swiss and eleven other governments hastened to follow this advice and the following year they drew up the famous Geneva Convention. The number of governments parties thereto has continued to increase, relief societies have been founded, and thus the movement has reached its present stage of development. It can be said that this progress was more than could be hoped for.

Moreover, the Red Cross world which now includes several continents, was grateful to the founding Committee and several

active National Societies desired not to let the anniversary of August 22, 1864 pass without sending a message to the International Committee in Geneva. One of these, the "Central Committee of Austrian Red Cross Societies", sent the following letter to Geneva :

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Geneva Convention, which will be celebrated in the second half of August 1889, the Central Austrian Committee feels it is its pleasant duty to express to the International Committee, on behalf of the Austrian Society, its esteem and gratitude for the humanitarian services of immense value rendered so far in the name of the Geneva Convention, promoting the development of voluntary assistance in war, and it assures the International Committee of its sincere sympathy and consideration.

### **Fifty years on**

In 1914, a large part of the world was plunged into war by August 22. Hostilities had broken out on several fronts and it was hardly the time to celebrate anniversaries. Nevertheless, several National Societies did not wish this date to go by without a special message to the International Committee.

Consequently, the Grand-Duchess of Baden, among others, wrote to Geneva and her gesture was the more touching that she, like her mother the Empress Augusta, had been extremely enthusiastic to make the Convention effective and already in 1860 she had had a decisive influence in her country on the rapid extension of the work of relief to the wounded and sick and in peace-time preparation for this aim. The ICRC replied through its President, Gustave Ador : " This anniversary has been grievously saddened by the tragic events to which we are now witness. Never has the task of the Red Cross been so necessary as at present. We all feel the responsibility which falls upon us and our efforts will be concentrated on enabling the Red Cross to carry out its humanitarian mission in all countries on behalf of the wounded and prisoners of war . . ." He then added the expression of his gratitude " towards those who, in spite of the troubles of the time and the serious situation, did not wish to let the 22nd of August be forgotten, as a milestone on the road to fellowship and humaneness among men ".

In its *Bulletin international*, the ICRC did not omit to recall the importance of the revised Convention of July 6, 1906 " which is still present in the minds of us all and through which the offi-

cially recognized Red Cross Societies participate in the protection and more complete guarantees which the Convention provides ". It also wished to mark the 50th anniversary of the First Geneva Convention by publishing a list, in chronological order, of signatory States, to show how it had extended up to that time :

<i>France</i>	1864	<i>Bolivia</i>	1879
<i>Switzerland</i>	1864	<i>Chile</i>	1879
<i>Belgium</i>	1864	<i>Argentine Rep.</i>	1879
<i>Netherlands</i>	1864	<i>Peru</i>	1880
<i>Italy</i>	1864	<i>United States</i>	1882
<i>Spain</i>	1864	<i>Bulgaria</i>	1884
<i>Sweden and</i>		<i>Japan</i>	1886
<i>Norway</i>	1864	<i>Luxemburg</i>	1888
<i>Denmark</i>	1864	<i>Congo</i>	1888
<i>Baden</i>	1864	<i>Venezuela</i>	1894
<i>Greece</i>	1865	<i>Siam</i>	1895
<i>Great Britain</i>	1865	<i>South African Rep.</i>	1896
<i>Mecklemburg-Schwerin</i>	1865	<i>Orange Free State</i>	1897
<i>Prussia</i>	1865	<i>Honduras and</i>	
<i>Turkey</i>	1865	<i>Nicaragua</i>	1898
<i>Württemberg</i>	1866	<i>Uruguay</i>	1900
<i>Hesse</i>	1866	<i>Korea</i>	1903
<i>Bavaria</i>	1866	<i>Guatemala</i>	1903
<i>Austria</i>	1866	<i>China</i>	1904
<i>Portugal</i>	1866	<i>Mexico</i>	1905
<i>Saxony</i>	1866	<i>Brazil</i>	1906
<i>Russia</i>	1867	<i>Colombia</i>	1906
<i>Papal States</i>	1868	<i>Germany (Empire)</i>	1906
<i>Rumania</i>	1874	<i>Paraguay</i>	1907
<i>Persia</i>	1874	<i>Haiti</i>	1907
<i>Salvador</i>	1874	<i>Cuba</i>	1907
<i>Montenegro</i>	1875	<i>Dominican Rep.</i>	1907
<i>Serbia</i>	1876	<i>Panama</i>	1907
		<i>Ecuador</i>	1907

These were the fifty-five States having signed the 1864 Convention. Since then, forty had signed the 1906 Convention.

### Seventy-five years later

Once again the anniversary was celebrated in an atmosphere of anxiety ; a week later the Second World War broke out and this was to call for enormous efforts from the whole Red Cross movement. A ceremony took place in the Palais Eynard in Geneva,



Signing of the Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864,  
painting by Armand-Dumaresq.

Photo-Boissonnas, Geneva

with the co-operation of the cantonal and municipal authorities. Ceremonies were held in various countries, either on August 22 or on the occasion of the annual national congress. For instance the American National Red Cross officially commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Convention during its general meeting in April 1939.

The *Revue internationale* published an issue in which four members of the ICRC analysed the moral, legal and historic importance of the event of 1864. Max Huber, in particular, wrote a study clarifying the relationship between the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross ; we shall revert to this later.

Paul Des Gouttes reviewed “ the first 75 years of the Geneva Convention ”. He was associated with the work of the Red Cross from 1893 and was a colleague of Gustave Moynier ; he was undoubtedly one of the most qualified of jurists to appraise the virtues and defects of the 1864 Convention and to draw the lesson from an event which was of exceptional importance in the field of humanitarian law and international ethics. We therefore consider it worthwhile to reproduce below the first few pages of his article :

“ When a man reaches the age of seventy-five, it is high time he retires. The Geneva Convention, twice rejuvenated by revision and judiciously adapted to meet the circumstances of the moment, has not aged. It remains a magnificent monument to humane action amidst arms, *caritas inter arma*.

“ The three pillars on which it rests have remained constant. Set up at the outset, and still the steadfast support of the whole structure although with some changes in form, they are ;

care for the wounded and sick without distinction of nationality :

this is the aim ;

respect for and protection of medical personnel and equipment :

this is the means ;

the distinctive sign : this is the defence.

“ Phraseology has become more precise : today we no longer use the term “ neutrality ” ; it is inaccurate. He who is neutral remains outside the conflict, abstaining from taking any part in it. This is not the case either of the wounded or of medical personnel, who are directly involved ; the former as victims, the latter to remedy the

suffering. Neither loses his nationality nor citizenship : they retain their flag. But in the face of the care to be received or administered, nationality takes a place in the background. The care for the wounded and sick is not affected by considerations of nationality ; it must be the same for all victims, whether friend or foe. This is the principle of true Christian charity as exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

“ The field of application of the Convention has also remained the same, its limits are well defined. It has always been called : Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick *in Armed Forces in the Field*. Successive revisions whether ratified or merely in draft form did not bring it out of its own sphere. It only applies in time of conflict. This is indeed perfectly rational, since it is only in the case of conflict that these fundamental rules which form its foundation find their *raison d'être* and their application. The protection laid down in favour of the wounded and of medical personnel, and the question of identification are only necessary during combat.

“ The word “ military ” has been suppressed, protection also covering “ other persons officially attached to the armed forces ”. And the sick (already mentioned in 1864, art. 6) have, since 1906, been everywhere assimilated to the wounded. One had, however, always refused to allow the Convention to leave its original and historic framework, that of the military at war or, as it is now termed, in armed conflict ”.

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“ Based on its three fundamental principles, the Convention of 1864 constitutes a magnificent achievement in the humanization of war. It is not yet a question of the laws of war itself, of rules in methods of fighting. One must realize that the first Hague Convention did not take place until 35 years later ! It was a matter of attenuating its effects, in the name of humanity, by assuring the necessary care and protection to the victims. Thus the 1864 assembly was anxious to leave the greatest possible latitude to army commanders in order not to impede military operations. One wanted to take into account “ the repugnance of all Commanders-in-Chief against being bound by regulations ”. Did not General Dufour, who issued an order of the day on November 4, 1847 in

the war of the Sonderbund in the Swiss cantons, enjoining the care of the wounded without distinction and the return of prisoners, declare at the Conference that he considered it to be his duty, should such a given case arise, to make exceptions for which he would accept full responsibility, even if it meant subsequently giving an explanation for his conduct". (Protocol p. 26).

" The general wording of article 8, open to wide as well as to restrictive interpretation, which left it to commanders to regulate details of the Convention's implementation, brought the desired alleviation with the guarantees appearing necessary at the time.

" One point should be noted. One can already see concern for civilian hospitals, in fact for these only accepting military wounded. This was quite simply resolved by the following affirmation, considered satisfactory by the assembly: " civilian hospitals assume military status once they give shelter to military wounded ". (Protocol, p. 13.)

" It might be a matter for surprise not to find definite mention of " voluntary aids " in the text. This was however causing considerable concern. At a meeting of February 9, 1863, of the Geneva Public Welfare Society, the question had been formulated in these terms : " Concerning the addition to the armed forces of a corps of voluntary aids ". France, however, formally opposed mention of this. It was all the same agreed that such aids offering their services voluntarily, should, once they had been accepted, be placed on the same footing as regular personnel of the Medical Service. (Protocol, p. 12).

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" In order to realize such a remarkable achievement, there were only 26 delegates, representing a mere sixteen States. One can imagine this small assembly meeting in two " newly decorated " rooms of the Hôtel de Ville in Geneva, presided over by General Dufour, an old man of 77, accomplishing such a work, which was indeed astonishing for those days, in seven sessions and in a matter of a fortnight, *Exegi monumentum !* Those men must have been almost divinely inspired and have had invincible faith in the rightness of their cause to have achieved such a remarkable result in so short a time...

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“ Such as it was, however admirable as a first attempt, that Convention had its faults and presented certain shortcomings. It went both too far and yet not far enough. It did not go far enough in limiting the protection for medical personnel and equipment, during the time there were wounded to be cared for. It was therefore sufficient for the wounded to be evacuated or healed for an ambulance and its personnel to be deprived of all immunity and become once more either war booty or enemy subjects to be captured like military personnel. This was in fact to paralyse all humanitarian action.

“ The Convention went, on the other hand, too far by not considering the wounded as prisoners of war. During the fighting they could be handed over to the outposts. If seriously wounded they should be returned to their own country. Once healed they could also be sent home provided they did not take up arms again. This was too generous and unacceptable in practice.

Inhabitants who voluntarily brought aid to the wounded also enjoyed far too great an immunity. They were declared neutral and free, and the presence of a single wounded man was a safeguard for the house, dispensing the inhabitants of all war contributions. This was merely to open the door to abuses and to defeatism.

Finally, the distinctive sign was not protected against misuse ”.

### **After a hundred years**

We have just seen how the first Geneva Convention was at various moments judged. On the other hand, the message of the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as Mr. J. Pictet's article, under whose general editorship a *Commentary* on each of the four Conventions was published<sup>1</sup>, tell us what one should think today. They affirm its importance, of which due account is taken, by comparing that which existed before and after 1864 in the law of war as well as in acts.

Before the signing of the Geneva Convention, the law of war consisted essentially in use and custom, of which one finds expression in the works of lawyers. Now, the Convention differentiates

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<sup>1</sup> *Commentary on the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949*, published by the ICRC, Geneva, from which the four volumes can be obtained. Each volume relates to one of the Conventions and can be had separately.

itself, by its very nature, from all those cartels and arrangements which were able to be drawn up "post factum" in the past. Since then, the rights of war are no longer customary, the Convention is, properly speaking, the key-stone of the conventional and written law of war.

The status of medical personnel which it established has most appreciably modified the position of the wounded. In fact, the practical application of the principles which inspired it had immediate consequences. If the war which took place between Prussia and Austria proved the usefulness of the Relief Societies in 1866, it also demonstrated that of the Geneva Conventions, to such an extent that, even before the cessation of hostilities, the Grand-Duchy of Hesse, Bavaria and Austria itself acceded to it.

As Mr. P. Boissier wrote in his book on the history of the ICRC "acts themselves pleaded the cause of the Geneva Convention better than any steps taken by the International Committee".<sup>1</sup>

The 1864 Convention is the spark still extant which kindled the drawing up of the Geneva Convention of July 6, 1906, of July 22, 1929 and of August 12, 1949. The Convention of 1906 by comparison with that of 1864 represented real progress. The principal achievement was that Red Cross Societies, duly recognized and authorized by their governments, were accepted in the Convention and benefited from the stipulated immunities. As has been said, "they earned their distinction and deserved a due place of honour". One can see the timid commentary of 1864 on voluntary aids, whom one does not even dare to mention by name. Then in 1906, voluntary aid personnel make their triumphant entry on the scene, not only the National Societies, but also neutrals on the three-fold condition that their governments give their approval, that permission is given by the belligerent and that prior notice is given to the enemy States. This is indeed a step forward. There is also now an extension of the very conception of aid, namely to introduce a foreign element into the armed forces. A fine victory of humane action over arms."<sup>2</sup>

The revision which took place in 1929 in no way changed the structure itself of the 1906 Convention. Its general arrangement was preserved in spite of the ordeal of the Great War and its

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<sup>1</sup> Histoire du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, *De Solferino à Tsoushima*, Paris 1963, p. 244.

<sup>2</sup> P. Des Gouttes, *Revue internationale*, August 1939, p. 678.

principles were maintained and re-stated with several precise details and some additions. A separate Convention was drawn up relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

As regards the Conventions the text of which the plenipotentiaries of nearly all countries in the world approved on August 12, 1949, one knows that henceforth they envisage the protection of civilians and mark a decisive step forward for the protection of war victims. The Powers signed these shortly afterwards, nearly all ratifying them. We also know that the national and international Red Cross institutions find in these texts more numerous and more solid foundations upon which to continue their humanitarian work <sup>1</sup>.

One may well ask what has happened to the first Geneva Convention after several revisions have taken place. There is only one State which remains bound by it, the Republic of Korea and it is to be hoped that it will soon sign the 1949 Conventions. Once this has been done, the Convention of 1864 will become obsolete and can then be considered as an archive document. It will, however, continue to exist in the Conventions which have followed it and which it inspired.

How many international treaties signed a century ago have long since fallen into abeyance !

“ The Geneva Convention, on the contrary, has steadily grown and developed. Revised and amplified three times, extended to cover in turn first armed forces at sea, then prisoners of war, and finally civilians, its modest provisions have developed into a veritable arsenal of shields and bucklers protecting us against certain effects of war. For the four Conventions of 1949, with their 430 Articles, are nothing else but a reaffirmation, and the rules of application, of the principle proclaimed in 1864—namely, respect for the human person.”

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<sup>1</sup> See the article by Mr. J. Pictet on the four Geneva Conventions, *Revue internationale*, September 1949.

## THE FIRST GENEVA CONVENTION

In ancient times some of the great commanders were accompanied on their campaigns by their own personal doctors. The Romans had at least one doctor for each cohort (about 500 to 600 men) and a legion, which consisted of ten cohorts, possessed a "medicus legionis" who acted no doubt as the head in all medical matters. At the time of the Crusades, the Sultan Saladin gave an example of humanity by authorizing the doctors of the adverse party to care for the Christian prisoners and then to return through the lines. Arab doctors also treated Saint Louis. It was not, however, until the XVIth Century that an organized medical service was started in European armies. It still remained sadly insufficient.

This position was to improve especially in the XVIIIth Century as a result of civilizing influences. After the battle of Fontenoy in 1745, all the wounded were cared for by an entirely effective medical service. Had Henry Dunant then been alive and arrived on the battle-field he would have found no reason to restate his views or even less to propose creating the Red Cross.

During the French Revolution and under Napoleon, however, the introduction of conscription was the beginning of wars in mass, resulting in a humanitarian regression of horrifying proportions. In the second half of the XIXth Century during the Crimean and Italian wars, 60% of the wounded were to die owing to a lack of suitable care.

And it was then that the appeal was launched in 1862 by Henry Dunant, the involuntary witness of the tragic aftermath of one of the most blood-stained battles in history. The XIXth Century was, however, by no means a period of merely foolish action, since it was to show much generosity, traversed by a great gust of fellowship, the precursor of modern humanitarianism of which the abolition of slavery and the creation of the Red Cross were to be the two crowning achievements.

We know how a committee of five private individuals was formed on February 17, 1863 to study Dunant's proposals. This was in fact none other than the future International Committee of the Red Cross. These pioneers without much power or authority, but possessing irresistible faith in mankind, were to be the originators of both the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions.

In order to make innovations in fields which are essential one should not, as is generally believed, formulate the principle that the wounded should not be massacred nor that enemies should be cared for in the same way as friends. Such rules of war already existed as a matter of custom; they were more or less respected at Solferino. On this point it was sufficient for the Convention to confirm this custom by making of it a formal undertaking, valid at all times.

The great step, however, which should be taken in international law is to obtain special status, which was then to be termed "neutrality" for all medical personnel. By a complete reversal of the practice in force, such personnel could no longer be taken prisoner. It should be allowed to continue its task of assistance and then be handed back to its own armed forces. Thus, no longer fearing the loss of his doctors, the military commander can leave them, in the event of a retreat, with the wounded who will no longer know the pitiable abandonment which used too often to be their lot.

This idea came to Dunant and his Dutch friend Basting as a blinding revelation in Berlin where they were taking part in the Statistical Congress.

The notion of neutrality having been favourably received in Berlin, Dunant decided to place it on the agenda of the Conference convened by the Committee of Five in Geneva for October 1863. This he did without consulting his colleagues whom he knew to be more prudent. This Conference, we know, was to found the Red Cross, by which voluntary aid societies were to be organized in each country, prepared to assist the Army Medical Services. On the point of "neutrality" Basting won support, in spite of resistance on the part of some of the delegates. The Conference was not, however, empowered to deal with legal questions.

This was to be the concern of the Diplomatic Conference convened the following year and which concluded the First Geneva Convention, which the well known legal expert Bluntschli praised

et dans cette Convention

Article 6

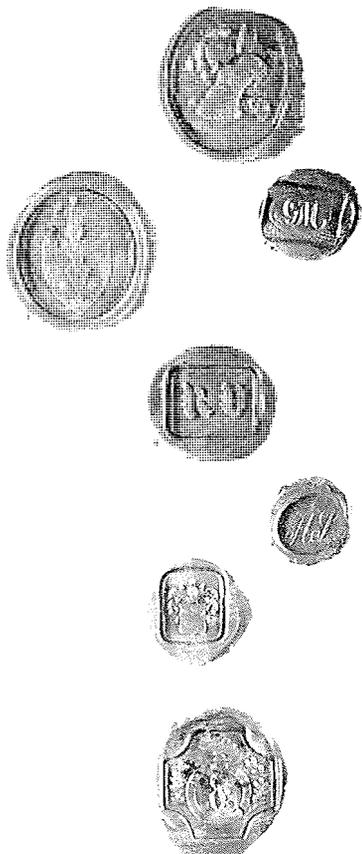
Les hautes Puissances contractantes sont convenues de reconnaître la présente Convention avec tous ses avantages, qui sont prévus des stipulations, à la Compagnie internationale de Genève, en leur nom, sans qu'aucune de ces Puissances ait eu effet sur le territoire

Article 11

La présente Convention sera ratifiée et les ratifications en seront adressées à Berne dans l'espace de quatre mois, ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi les Représentaires susdits ont signé et ont apposé le cachet de leur mission.

Fait à Genève, le vingt deuxième jour du mois d'Août de l'an mil huit cent soixante quatre.



Genl. G.H. Dufour

J. Moynier

Rd. Lehmann

A. Robert Volz

Genl.

Visschers

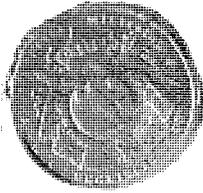
Genl.



Heinrich Casini  
de Lichtenberg



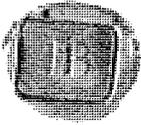
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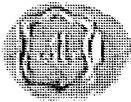
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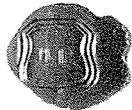
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Dunant emphasized the necessity for an emblem which should be everywhere uniform. His colleague Appia proposed the white armlet to the 1863 Conference, but it was pointed out to him that it was the sign generally recognized for parleys and surrender. Someone, no doubt General Dufour, then suggested that a red cross should be added to it and this at once won every vote.

“ As a compliment to Switzerland, the heraldic emblem of the red cross on a white ground, formed by reversing the Federal colours ”... Such was the text of the Geneva Convention, but in its revised version of 1906. Contrary to popular opinion, the founders of the Red Cross in creating the new emblem, were not conscious of reversing the Swiss colours.

In fact the minutes of the two Conferences are silent on this point and no text of the period alludes to such a connection. The express intention of reversing the Swiss colours to form the red cross is indeed only met with after 1870.

Unfortunately, the unity of the emblem, so essential however, was soon breached by Turkey to be followed by other Moslem countries. Recalling the Crusades these countries refused to adopt the cross. In 1929 they were officially conceded the use of the red crescent and for Iran alone the red lion and sun. There have since then been a dozen attempts to have other signs accepted, especially by Israel that of the red shield of David which is also known as the Jewish star. It is to be hoped that future developments will enable a return to the unity of the red cross sign in the world, since it is illogical and dangerous to wish to substitute for a universal and neutral flag a multitude of national emblems, symbols of belligerency and calling for armed attack.

Must one in fact state once more that the red cross on a white ground is a real symbol of neutrality and that it is therefore devoid of any national or religious significance. The assemblies which had created it wished it to be thus. The sign of immunity could not assume a political or a denominational sense, since it was to extend over the whole earth and, consequently, to cover people of all creeds and unbelievers alike. The red cross has only one proper significance, but that is sufficient for it : man in suffering is no longer an enemy and he will be given aid without distinction, without even asking his name, simply and solely because he is a man and is suffering.

Two years after its conclusion, during the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, the Geneva Convention received its baptism of fire. It was also at the same time to give striking proof of its quality, especially at Sadowa, a battle which almost as murderous as Solferino with its 40,000 dead and wounded. Whilst Prussia had signed the Convention, Austria had not. Prussia, however, decided to apply it unilaterally. It possessed perfectly organized hospitals, the Prussian Red Cross was everywhere at work and all functioned according to plan. This was the very reverse in the Austrian army which, in retreat, had left its wounded behind without care. In a clearing near Sadowa were found the bodies of eight hundred wounded Austrians who had died through having been abandoned.

The first conflict in which the Geneva Convention was applied by the two parties was the Serbo-Bulgarian war of 1885, a war, however, of exceptional ferocity. First of all the Serbian army penetrated Bulgaria, then the opposite happened. The Serbians in their retreat left a considerable number of wounded behind, but medical detachments stayed with them. The victims were collected and cared for without distinction, medical personnel then passed through the lines and news was exchanged through the intermediary of the ICRC. The result of this was that the mortality rate of Serbian wounded fell to 2%. This sudden drop could certainly not be ascribed to the Red Cross and the Geneva Convention alone, for there was also aseptic treatment which had just been discovered.

This time the States understood that the Geneva Convention conformed with their most elementary reciprocal advantage. From now on no one would contest this.

As the great Pasteur wrote and I would like to conclude with these words: "Today there are two different laws fighting each other. One law of blood and death which, whilst each day inventing new methods of warfare, forces people to be constantly prepared for the field of battle, and the other, the law of peace, of work, of salvation, which only thinks of delivering man from the scourges which beset him.

The one merely seeks violent conquest, whilst the other desires only to relieve mankind. The former would sacrifice hundreds of thousands of existences to the ambition of one man and the latter places one human life far above any victory."

**JEAN PICTET**

Director for General Affairs  
of the ICRC

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **Florence Nightingale Medal**

GENEVA, August 23, 1964

*Circular No. 456*

*To the Central Committees of the National  
Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies*

The 20th award of the Florence Nightingale Medal is to take place in May 1965. Under the new Regulations adopted in August 1952 by the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross in Toronto, the International Committee will not issue more than 36 medals, without any obligation, however, to award the whole number.

It may be recalled that according to Article 6 of the Regulations, the Florence Nightingale Medal may be awarded to :

- (a) trained nurses who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their great devotion to wounded or sick in time of war or of peace.
- (b) matrons or nursing organisers who have rendered exceptional services in connection with the care of the sick or wounded in time of war or of peace.
- (c) voluntary aids duly registered with the Red Cross who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their great devotion to wounded or sick in time of war or of disasters.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

(d) nurses and voluntary aids of any one of the above categories who have fallen on active service.

Under Article 8 of the said Regulations, the Central Committees of National Societies, having taken all requisite advice, propose candidates to the International Committee of the Red Cross. They may propose one or more candidates ; they are not, however, bound to submit applications for each distribution.

The significance of this distinctive award can be upheld only if the Central Committees make a careful and judicious choice of the candidates whose names they propose to submit to the International Committee.

The Medal was instituted, not to crown a career, however deserving of merit, but to reward outstanding acts of devotion and as a recognition of exceptional moral and professional qualities.

We should like to draw attention to the fact that, according to Article 9, all nominations must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva before March 1, 1965. Applications not received by that date, with all the particulars required, will be held over by the International Committee for consideration on the occasion of a subsequent award.

The number of applications submitted for the Florence Nightingale Medal has considerably increased during the past few years. This is only natural in view of the fact that several new National Societies have recently been recognized. The result of this, however, is to make the selection of candidates more and more difficult. We earnestly request National Societies to complete the attached questionnaire in as detailed a manner as possible, by indicating all records of service and all reasons in justification of the candidate, in particular the conditions in which she gave proof of outstanding moral and professional qualities. Otherwise the International Committee might, to its great regret, find itself obliged to consider only applications submitted according to these criteria.

Léopold BOISSIER  
*President*

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN THE YEMEN

There has been a recent intensification of military operations in various parts of the Yemen where the civil war continues between the Republican Government of Sanaa and the Imam El Badr, entrenched in the mountains which are difficult of access. This situation accentuates the importance of the task assumed by the International Committee of the Red Cross whose medical personnel sent to the spot is caring for the largest possible number of victims. Conditions of work, in view of the seasonal oppressive heat, are extremely hard, but the ICRC delegates are none the less continuing their mission of which the present events demonstrate the absolute necessity.

*At the Uqhd field hospital.*—From April 29 to May 31, 99 wounded and sick have been admitted to the ICRC hospital. Of these, 32 are convalescent cases, 25 were treated for wounds, 13 have had to undergo one or more operations, 13 have serious tropical diseases, 13 are suffering from tuberculosis.

In the same month, 107 operations were performed in the "Clinobox", with its modern operating theatre, its X-ray theatre (446 X-ray examinations in one month) and its laboratory in which 989 analyses were performed in May alone.

During the same period 6,685 consultations were given at the dispensary, that is to say, 1,257 more than in April. Since the hospital was set up, the number of consultations has almost reached 26,000.

All this work has been accomplished by a team of about 30 persons, including six or seven doctors assisted by nursing and technical staff.

Work continues to exceed its normal capacity. The wounded, coming from various fighting zones, arrive there almost daily, but as seen by figures given in our last issue, the doctors and their assistants also care for large numbers of civilians.

These for the most part, are also victims of the conflict. In fact, the military operations have in many places resulted in destruction to crops and fruit thus forcing considerable numbers of the pop-

ulation to fall back on areas lacking in resources. As a result under-nourishment and the absence of hygiene are causing much sickness. Furthermore bombing continues to cause deaths and wounds amongst the civilian population, several of whom are also suffering from nervous shock. In general, it can be seen that fear of aerial bombing diminishes physical resistance. In normal times the inhabitants could have their sick treated at the hospital at Sanaa, but this has been prevented by the hostilities and they now have no other alternative but to transport them to Uqhd, the only hospital establishment in North Yemen.

*At Sanaa.*—Thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 900 wards of a large orphanage in Sanaa, whose ages range from 6 to 15, receive a ration of milk each morning. By degrees the ICRC delegates have arranged for the daily distribution to be carried out by the staff and children themselves. The same milk allowance is also given to 170-180 children in another institution in the town. There are therefore over one thousand children receiving ICRC assistance each day in the form of 20 kilos of whole milk, 22½ kilos of skimmed milk, 15 kilos of sugar, 400 packets and 4 bottles of vitamin products. The ICRC delegates, in their reports, emphasize the distress which is rampant, not only in the capital where milk should be distributed in all schools, but also in provincial centres such as Taiz and Hodeida where the living standard is very low, and in such places as Saada and Marib which are directly affected by the war.

In co-operation with the Yemeni Ministry of Health, the ICRC has distributed soap to the women undergoing treatment in the two Sanaa dispensaries and also cheese to the most needy patients.

*Doctors' impressions on returning from the Yemen.*—The ICRC in Geneva has just been visited by two doctors who devoted themselves for several months to Yemeni victims of the events. These were Dr. Johann de Puoz, until recently Head Medical Officer of the Uqhd field hospital and Dr. Ernesto de Villagas, a Spanish surgeon delegated by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, who has worked for five months in the Yemen. Dr. de

Puoz stressed the fact that the Uqhd hospital, both by its location and by its equipment and size, was adapted as well as possible under the circumstances. He noted that, in order to bring effective relief to the distress caused by the civil war, the Red Cross could not have been able to be contented with less technical means. As regards the geographical position of the hospital he considers that it could not be more satisfactory, since Uqhd is relatively sheltered from the military operations and can receive wounded from nearly all the fighting areas to the East and North-East of Sanaa.

Dr. de Villegas, for his part, emphasized the hospital's effectiveness and stated: "Thanks to the many laboratory examinations and observations made by the first doctors to arrive at Uqhd, it is now possible to cure certain tropical illnesses more rapidly. In surgery as well, the doctors of the Red Cross have made progress as can be seen by this example: at the outset, cases of "madura foot" (swelling gangrene of the foot or leg) resulted in amputation, now this disease can be treated medically and the affected limb saved in time".

After having traversed numerous regions of the Yemen, Dr. de Villegas described as "disastrous" the medical situation of the civilian population, especially on the Royalist side. "The inhabitants there", he said, "are completely out off from the outside world. In the arid mountains in which they have taken refuge, there is a shortage of water and a total absence of vegetation. Under-nourishment diminishes physical resistance, especially amongst the women and children. In spite of a relatively healthy climate, tuberculosis causes increasing havoc. The war, by making the Yemenis abandon the few rules of hygiene which they used to observe, has resulted in an increase of such diseases as bilharzia, gangrene, typhus and even malaria. The polluted water of the oases, generally the only available supply, contains every sort of harmful germ and encourages the spreading of disease."

*Many wounded in the Western sector.*—Fighting has become intensified chiefly to the North-West of Sanaa, resulting in large numbers of dead and wounded. Dr. Maximilien Récamier and Dr. Jean-Pascal Grellety-Bosviel, who are working in this sector, are

at present overwhelmed and they can no longer give treatment to all who require it.

Accompanied by Dr. Reinhold Wepf, the new Head Medical Officer of the Uqhd Hospital and two other delegates, Mr. André Rochat, Head of the ICRC mission in the Yemen, has left Sanaa, capital of the Republic, for the Western sector in order to give a helping hand to the medical team. He has the intention, in agreement with the two belligerents, to cross the lines and to proceed to the Royalist lines where needs are greatest. At the same time, the representative of the ICRC counts on bringing aid to prisoners held by the Royalist forces in this sector and ensuring that all necessary steps will be taken for their safety.

*Action on behalf of Republican war disabled.*—A delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Charles de Blonay, has escorted a group of eight amputated war disabled from Sanaa, capital of the Yemen Republic, to Cairo. This makes a total of 18 who have benefited from this joint action of the ICRC and the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic.

The disabled are admitted to the Red Crescent hospital in Cairo, where they are fitted with artificial limbs from the workshop of the "Centre of the Organization of aid to veterans of the UAR". At the Centre, the disabled are given rehabilitation treatment enabling them to become adjusted to their artificial limbs. In some cases, Red Crescent surgeons even make rectifications to amputated limbs. Other members of this National Society give moral support to these unfortunate ones, who also receive a weekly allowance whilst in the Egyptian capital.

The ICRC contributes financially to this action and the Egyptian authorities assure free transport from the Yemen to Cairo.

*A letter of joyful news.*—The Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in Geneva continues to ensure the exchange of correspondence between prisoners of war held in the Yemen and their families. The arrival of a letter from a close relative of whom the family has had no news for a long time and transmitted by Geneva, is always a great event, as can be seen by the following extracts of a brother's reply to a prisoner : . . . " It was as if a new

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life was beginning for us when we had your letter, since we knew nothing of you for the past ten months . . .”.

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## GENEVA CONVENTIONS

In its number of June last, the *International Review* mentioned the participation of the Republic of Niger in the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, thus bringing to one hundred the number of countries definitely parties to the Conventions.

Two further countries of Africa have since confirmed their participation in the Conventions. These are Rwanda, which has declared the Geneva Conventions applicable to that country by reason of their previous ratification by Belgium in 1952, and Uganda, whose declaration of accession to the said Conventions will take effect on November 18, 1964.

There are now one hundred and two States bound to the Conventions by ratification, accession or declaration of continuity.

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**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN CYPRUS**

The ICRC started its activity in Cyprus on January 1, 1964 by sending a delegate to Nicosia. Two weeks later, owing to the spreading of the troubles, the ICRC decided to increase its representation and it now numbers two delegates and a secretary. Their mission is, in co-operation with the local Red Cross, to bring assistance and protection to the victims of the events, by basing themselves in particular on article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, relative to conflicts which are not of an international character.

The complete separation between the two Cypriot communities, added to the state of extreme tension which has continued to exist in the island, have resulted in a considerable number of tragic situations for the inhabitants and Red Cross action has had to overcome many very hard obstacles. However, whether it has been a question of missing or displaced persons, of prisoners or other cases, scarcely less pitiful, inevitably brought about by such circumstances, the ICRC delegation has patiently attempted to find a humanitarian solution to each problem raised.

The tracing of persons missing during the troubles continues to be its most exacting task. To this end, the ICRC has set up an information bureau where all enquiries are centralized. In addition to the numerous contacts it has made with the local authorities on the subject, representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, the delegates of the ICRC have made systematic searches in all villages in which transportation of the inhabitants has taken place. This has involved practically combing the island. In spite of tracing activities often encountering a conspiracy of silence, the delegates have obtained encouraging results.

On the other hand, the ICRC has attempted to get permission from both sides to visit official or clandestine places of detention. The delegates have thus been able to transmit news to the families of a certain number of detainees.

They have even, on several occasions, succeeded in having these released. This was the case in particular of some fifty persons reported missing.

The daily work of the ICRC delegates in Cyprus also consists of many duties for private individuals, created by abnormal and

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

unexpected situations resulting from a complete rupture between the two communities. It may be a question of giving a measure of protection or assistance to someone in special circumstances, such as, for example, making representations to the Greek Cypriot authorities with a view to ensuring that a Turkish Cypriot child rejoins his parents abroad. Or else it may involve coping with some break-down in postal communications or arranging for treatment to be given to an isolated group of people entirely lacking in medical aid.

Only a short time ago, the ICRC delegation in Cyprus gave its support to an important relief action, organized by the local branch of the British Red Cross, in liaison with several welfare organizations on behalf of stricken and displaced inhabitants. Its essential rôle was to make frequent interventions in order to ensure the smooth running of relief operations. Since June 10, this task has been assumed by the United Nations.

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## SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

## News Items

## Laos

Contributions made or promised as a result of the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies in agreement with the Laotian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in favour of the victims of the conflict in Laos have now reached a total of the equivalent of 100,000 Swiss francs. A little more than one third of this amount consists of contributions in kind, the remainder being cash donations.

The latter have been provided by the Red Cross Societies of the following countries: Sweden—4,195 frs., Luxembourg—3,000 frs., United Kingdom—6,017 frs., Canada—11,940 frs., Australia—4,830 frs., South Africa—1,800 frs., Norway 6,019 frs., Lebanon—200 frs., Dahomey—170 frs., USA—20,150 frs., Thailand—1,656 frs., Cambodia—1,234 frs. (handed to the Laotian Ambassador at Phnom-Penh). The Australian Government has also directly informed Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, that it will make a contribution of 19,000 frs.

Of donations in kind we would mention the following: Swedish Red Cross—20,045 yards of cotton stuffs, 350,000 multivitamin tablets, 2,000 kgs. of soap, representing the equivalent of 25,000 Sw.fr. These relief supplies, despatched from Hong Kong direct, have already reached the Laotian Red Cross.

Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam—500 kgs of soap (value = 500 Sw.fr.) sent overland from Saigon to Laos.

German Red Cross of the Federal Republic—3,000,000 multivitamin tablets, the equivalent of 10,700 Sw.fr.

Red Cross of the Republic of Korea, 10,000 vitamin tablets and various medicines, representing a total value of 2,000 Sw.fr. This consignment arrived by air from Seoul to the Laotian Red Cross.

In addition the pharmaceutical service of the Swiss Federal Army has placed 200 kgs. of insecticide powder to a value of 500 Sw.fr. at the disposal of the ICRC for its action in Laos. The ICRC, for its part, has withdrawn from its stocks 30,000 packets of cigarettes to a value of 15,000 Sw.fr. for despatch to the Laotian Red Cross.

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Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC in South-East Asia, has had capture cards and correspondence cards printed in Vientiane in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions (arts. 70 and 71, III). These cards are in particular destined for American nationals detained by the Pathet Lao authorities. They are printed in English and Lao. Mr. Durand has had these sent to Prince Souphanouvong, head of the Pathet Lao, at Khang-Khay, for handing to the prisoners.

### **Repatriation of Koreans interrupted**

The recent earthquake which struck part of the Japanese archipelago has resulted for the time being in interrupting the repatriation of Koreans wishing to return to their country of origin under the control of the Red Cross. The port of Niigata, where sailings take place for the Democratic Republic of Korea, has been especially affected. Departures will probably be resumed within the next two months.

### **Mission to Kwilu and Kasai**

Mr. Geoffrey C. Senn, delegate of the ICRC, has left Geneva for another mission to the Congo (Leopoldville). After making contact with the representatives of the new government, he will be visiting trouble spots to discover eventual needs and possibilities of aid. He is heading for Albertville for that purpose.

Mr. Senn who is accompanied by an assistant delegate, Mr. Laurent Marti, will then continue his mission to Rwanda and Southern Rhodesia.

### **Sudan**

The general delegate of the ICRC for Sub-Equatorial Africa, Mr. Georg Hoffmann, has just completed a brief mission to Khartoum, during the course of which he was able to make contact with the Sudanese authorities. He studied with them in particular the question of disseminating the Geneva Conventions. Mr. Hoffmann also had talks with the directors of the Sudanese Red Crescent who gave him a warm welcome.

### **Zanzibar**

The *International Review* has already mentioned that Mr. G. Hoffmann, general delegate of the ICRC for Sub-Equatorial Africa, visited Zanzibar in February and March of this year.

Mr. Hoffmann completed another mission in Zanzibar in June. He made contact with the authorities and was received by the

Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Prisons Department. Accompanied by Mrs Janet Adams and Miss Helen Wood of the British Red Cross, he visited the Zanzibar central prison. He also went to various places on the island where he visited groups of refugees and a camp set up to shelter them, in order to examine their plight, following recent events.

Mr. Hoffmann again returned to Zanzibar in July for a short mission.

### **Australia**

Mr. André Durand, general delegate of the ICRC for South-East Asia, went to Sydney from May 19 to 29, to take part in the Forum of South-East Asian Red Cross Societies. He was able to discuss with many delegates of these Societies questions related to Red Cross work on behalf of detainees, prisoners of war, refugees, families separated as a result of present or past conflicts and the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. The International Review will shortly revert to this subject.

### **Brazil**

The honorary delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Rio de Janeiro, Mr. Eric Haegler, has recently made a third visit to the nine representatives of the Chinese People's Republic interned in Brazil, following on the change of regime which took place last spring. It was at the request of the Chinese Red Cross that the ICRC intervened on behalf of these nine persons whom its delegate visited on May 6 and June 1.

Mr. Haegler handed them 25-word family message forms.

The first nine forms which have been returned to him after a long delay and numerous representations, have been sent to Peking. These messages will be handed by the Chinese Red Cross to the families of the nine internees.

### **Visit to the ICRC**

H. R. H. Prince Mechaal bin Abdul Aziz, Emir of Mecca, brother of King Saud and of Crown Prince Faisal, paid a visit to the International Committee in Geneva. He was welcomed by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, and by several members of the institution. Prince Mechaal, who was accompanied by Dr. Rachad Pharaon, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Paris, and former Minister of Health, and by Mr. O. W. Dejeni, Chargé

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

d'Affaires in Berne, showed keen interest in the ICRC's humanitarian activities, especially in the field hospital which cares for the victims of the civil war in the Yemen and which is installed not far from the Saudi Arabian frontier.

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### † LÉON BOSSARD

*Delegate of the International Committee  
of the Red Cross*

The International Committee felt much grief over the death in Auckland on July 10, 1964 of Mr. Léon Bossard, its delegate in New Zealand for a number of years.

It was in fact in September 1942 that he began to carry out his duties in a voluntary capacity and from the outset he showed qualities of conscientiousness and humanity of the highest order. For at that time, war was raging in the world and in several camps throughout the country there were Japanese prisoners, mainly at Featherston and internees of different nationalities in particular in the Pahiatua and Somes Island camps.

Mr. Bossard visited these detainees, ascertained their needs, returned to see them, undertook to make purchases and obtain the necessary aid from Geneva for them. He also arranged for the transmission of messages between the internees and their families and concerned himself with searches to be made by the Central Prisoners of War Agency.

Knowing as he did the needs and wishes of prisoners and internees, he sent very detailed reports to Geneva and intervened with the New Zealand authorities who always showed much understanding. Mr. Bossard also had excellent relations with the National Red Cross Society which did everything to facilitate his task.

At the end of the Second World War, a further activity was required of him. He dealt with the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees and later, when the ICRC was entrusted, in execution of article 16 of the Peace Treaty with Japan, with the drawing up of lists of former prisoners of war in Japanese hands, Mr. Bossard gave valuable help by acting as intermediary between the New Zealand Government and Red Cross, and the Geneva institution.

Subsequently, Mr. Bossard's task was essentially one of liaison, representing the ICRC in New Zealand with great distinction and of keeping headquarters closely informed with much attention to detail, which gave proof of his deep devotion to the cause of humanity.

The recalling of these few facts is sufficient to explain the loss felt by the International Committee with the death of Mr. Léon Bossard. Mr. Léopold Boissier sent a message of condolence to Mrs. Bossard in which he expressed the sorrow felt by the institution of which he is President as follows:

“ It is with deepest regret that I learnt through a very sympathetic cable from the National Secretary of the New Zealand Red Cross that we have lost our excellent delegate Mr. Léon Bossard.

Together with my colleagues of the International Committee I beg you and your son to accept our sincerest condolences. On behalf of all of us, I also wish to assure you that he will always be remembered as one of the most devoted of our representatives abroad.”

**A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL STATUS  
FOR CIVIL DEFENCE PERSONNEL**

In its issue of October 1962, the *International Review of the Red Cross* mentioned the studies being undertaken by the ICRC with a view to strengthening the guarantees which international humanitarian law could confer on civil defence personnel. The encouragement which the International Committee has received to pursue this objective, from the International Red Cross Council of Delegates at its 1963 meeting, from National Societies of the Red Cross, and even from governments, has induced it to convene a meeting of Experts for this forthcoming autumn at which will be present, in particular, representatives from governments having declared themselves in favour of this work. The purpose of the meeting is to lay the foundation for a set of draft regulations concerning an internationally recognized status for civil defence. It is intended to submit this draft to the next International Red Cross Conference.

We give below the text of the circular letter which the International Committee despatched on June 10, 1964 to the Central Committees of National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies, in order to advise them of the autumn meeting.

\* \* \*

The Council of Delegates at its meeting in Geneva from September 1-10, 1963 adopted the following Resolution :

VII

*Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services*

The Council of Delegates,

referring to Resolution No. IV relative to the participation of National Red Cross Societies in Civil Protection, which was adopted by the Council of Delegates assembled in Prague in the autumn of 1961,

having studied the report presented by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the Council of Delegates concerning the Status of personnel of Civil Protection Services,

- (a) notes with satisfaction the intention of the International Committee of the Red Cross, if it obtains such governmental support as it deems necessary, to draw up, in consultation with experts provided by the interested Governments and National Red Cross Societies, draft international rules defining the Status of personnel, equipment and installations of civil protection organisations in the event of armed conflict ;
- (b) expresses the wish that these draft rules, if drawn up, be submitted to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross ;
- (c) hopes the National Societies will support the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross and draw the attention of their Governments to this proposal which aims at strengthening appreciably the protection of war-victims, unceasingly advocated by the Red Cross.

After continuing the consultations mentioned in its report to the Centenary Congress<sup>1</sup>, the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to conclude last April that the number of governments giving encouragement to pursue its efforts in this field was now sufficient to enable it with their assistance to frame the required draft regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> " Status of Personnel of Civil Defence Services " doc. DD 3 b/1, Geneva, June 1963.

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This being so, the ICRC has decided to convene from October 27 to November 6, in Geneva, a private meeting of government and Red Cross experts from the countries—of which there are so far 12—which have shown themselves favourably inclined in principle to such a regulation. The purpose of the meeting will be to supply the ICRC, on the basis of a pre-arranged text, with such data as will enable the Committee to frame the draft regulation for submission to the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross in 1965. The League of Red Cross Societies will also be represented at the meeting.

The draft regulation which the ICRC will draw up, following the proceedings at the meeting, will be sent in the spring of 1965 to all members (governments and National Societies) of the next International Conference of the Red Cross. These members will thus have ample time to examine the problem and to draw up proposals for amendment before and during the Conference.

If your Society or your government authorities deem it expedient to advise us, even before this forthcoming autumn, of any considerations or suggestions on the regulation which it is intended to draw up, these would be gratefully received and submitted in an appropriate manner to the meeting of experts.

Moreover, it is possible that the authorities in your country, having had the opportunity of studying the problem on the basis of the report which we submitted to the last Council of Delegates, may already be in favour of the envisaged regulation in principle, and in view of their experience in Civil Defence or the development of Civil Defence service, may wish to take an active part in this autumn's meeting and delegate experts from either government services or the Red Cross. In such a case, we would appreciate it if you would let us have news of any such desire without delay in order that the ICRC, through your intermediary, may send your Government an invitation to the meeting and give necessary details.

We would stress that in any case the object of the meeting will be limited and technical; the main aim will be the framing of the draft regulation with which the foregoing resolution of the Council of delegates is concerned.

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EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be “ Inter arma caritas ”.

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies ;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term “ National Red Cross Societies ” includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife ; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension ;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Kruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 8 bis, rue Henry-Dunant, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, P.O. Box 1037, *Usumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17 R Ruelle Preak Bat Trasad Paem, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharmapala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 24, avenue Valcke, P.O. Box 1712, *Léopoldville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DAHOMY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto-Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22, *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293 *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P. O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu I A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.<sup>a</sup> Calle entre 8.<sup>a</sup> y 9.<sup>a</sup> Avenidas, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Ølduggøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.

## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYA — Red Cross Society of the Federation of Malaya, Jalan Belfield 519, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4<sup>o</sup> piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2 Makoko Road, Yaba, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic) — South African Red Cross, 14 Holland Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Ala-Almaari, *Damascus*.
- TANGANYIKA — Tanganyika Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Koznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow k.31*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Trìez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hông-Tháp-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.